

BILLERICAY & WICKFORD Gazette

Wednesday, June 2, 2010

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Cricket pair suspended

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Pupils digging for victory

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George lends a hand

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Lights group in search of cheer

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CHARRED: Firefighters work to put out the blaze in Wick Lane

Essex County Fire & Rescue Service

House fire robs family of precious possessions

A COUPLE have been left devastated after a fire destroyed their home

Mick and Kathleen Judd lost most of their possessions, including precious family photos, when flames ripped through their bungalow in Wick Lane, Wickford, last Tuesday afternoon.

The blaze started in a shed at the back of the house and 60 neighbouring residents were forced to leave their homes, as firefighters feared gas canisters stored in the shed would explode.

Police cordoned off 200 metres surrounding the scene.

Crews battled the flames as the roof of the property collapsed and window frames melted.

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PROMISE TO CLEAR ILLEGAL TRAVELLERS

Joshua Farrington
joshua.farrington@gazettenews.co.uk

A PLEDGE has been made to reclaim Dale Farm from the travellers before the end of the year.

The announcement has been met with feelings of relief from Crays Hill residents, who have fought the illegal settlement for nearly a decade.

The promise to clear the illegal part of the site and return it to green belt status was made by Basildon District Council leader Tony Ball at the council's annual meeting.

Speaking at the meeting on

Villagers breathe sigh of relief as council pledges to return site to green belt status

Thursday, Mr Ball said: "I am determined that, this year, the illegal developments at Hovefields and Dale Farm will be returned to the green belt status that the law demands."

Tony Gladwin, 26, who lives in Crays Hill, said he was behind the council's move.

"I'm completely glad to hear it. In my opinion, it's been far too long in coming."

However, the landscape gardener, who has lived in the village since he was a child, said he was worried it might be an empty promise.

"I feel like I must have heard it half a dozen times before."

"They always say they are just about to have an eviction and it never happens. It just goes back to the courts."

Another villager said simply: "At last."

Andy Peake, the chairman of Ramsden Crays Parish Council, said: "The sooner the better, as far as I'm concerned."

"We've been fighting Dale Farm for nine years now, and it's gone on long enough."

"I'm very pleased to see Tony Ball making statements like this."

In Dale Farm itself, a new sign has been hung across the entrance claiming: "We won't go."

But there was a downbeat atmosphere inside, as residents admitted they may soon be forced out.

Mary Anne McCarthy, 69, a grandmother who lives in a chalet on the site, said: "I feel sick at the thought of leaving here, but I can feel it coming closer."

"It's our home and we don't cause any trouble for anyone."

"There are sick people here waiting for operations, and mothers with young babies."

"We're just normal people."

Mrs McCarthy said the only way the 86 families living illegally on

■ Turn to page 2

THE ORCHID ROOMS

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Sharon Nutt with Quilters pupils including Imogen Thistlewaite, 5, and Emily Brown, 6

Children get busy with garden work

Winners hoping to repeat their success

gazettenews.co.uk

light work of plant-
weeding in this
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ub at Quilter's In-
working overtime
ready for the Biller-
ary Luckman said:
aren each half term
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won the category
are hoping for a
it is not all about

winning prizes.
"Gardening helps them learn about the environment and the food cycle. They are learning where their food comes from and healthy lifestyles."
Last year's winner Carol Pressman, of Tye Common Road, has re-entered the best kept front garden category and is also submitting one of her highly acclaimed hanging baskets.

Special

The 50-year-old said: "I am trying to do something extra special this year and am introducing cats tails to my hanging baskets, they are a reddish plant that look like furry tails."
"They are hard to work with because they like to be sheltered."

She continued: "I sell my hanging

baskets, people bring me their containers and I pot them up."

There is still time for schools, pubs, individuals and even football fans to enter ahead of judging, which takes place on July 4 and 5.

This year there is a new category for those with water features which sits alongside best vegetable patch, best topiary garden and best sheltered accommodation garden.

Primary pupils preparing for a garden in a pot for a special section just for children have been the challenge of following World Cup theme this year.

Entry forms, with the requirements for each section, can be picked up from Billericay Town Council offices, in Crown Yard, High Street, or the library, also in the High Street.

Extension to gala licence applied for

MORE tickets could be going on sale for the Billericay Gala Weekend on July 24 and 25.

An application has been submitted to increase the capacity of Lake Meadows to 8,000 for standing concerts - allowing the council to sell an extra 3,000 tickets if the bid is accepted.

The park, in Radford Crescent, Billericay, has a capacity of 4,999 for standing concerts and 4,500 for seated events.

The events team also wants to extend licensing hours, allowing it to play music and sell alcohol until 10pm, as opposed to 9.30pm.

Best Parties Ever is hoping to set up at Barleylands Farm between November 23 and December 23, offering Christmas parties.

It has submitted an application for a licence to sell alcohol and stage entertainment.

Anyone who supports or objects to either proposal should call Roy Robinson in licensing on 01268 294676.

Comment regarding the Barleylands application should be made by June 15 and Lake Meadows before June 21.

Travellers to be evicted

■ From front page

the site would leave would be through a forced eviction.

"I've seen the houses the council have offered and homeless people wouldn't take them."

"If I moved to a house like that, I'd be dead in a week."

"The only way we'll go is an eviction, but they'll have a fight on their hands."

"We give people no reason to hate us, but they'll have a reason if they come to destroy our homes."

In December last year, Basildon council appointed the eviction contract, worth an estimated £2 million to bailiff company Constant and Co, but no date has yet been set.

Unb stre

Captain Walf

BRENTWOOD 270 all out
LOUGHTON 150-7
(Brentwood won on run rate by 15 runs)

(Shepherd Neame Essex First XI Premier Division)

BRENTWOOD maintained their 100 per cent winning record this season with a close fought win over Loughton thanks in large to a superb all-round performance by overseas star Nuwan Shiroman.

Upon being asked to bat, Jonathan Walford faced just three balls before the heavens opened. Once play resumed an hour-and-a-half later, those three balls ensured that Brentwood still had 4 overs to face, whilst Loughton would get the minimum 20 over back.

On resumption Brentwood lost Aaron West to the first ball of Gareth James's spell, when a delivery just short of a length reared up and West gloved a delivery in the second slip that a lesser batsman would have not got close to.

That brought Shiroman to the wicket to join Walford. The pair manoeuvred the ball without having to resort to many big shots but still finding the boundary where loose balls were bowled.

Despite the presence of Essex seamer Tony Palladino, who opening four overs cost 16 runs and a pitch that extracted considerable bounce, the pair still managed to pile on a century partnership in just fifteen overs.

Chanceless

But they were not done there and the partnership continued unabated with both batsmen bringing up their chanceless centuries - Walford from just 97 balls and Shiroman from a mere 72.

Although Brentwood lost Walford in the 35th over, having put on 235 with Shiroman, Brentwood were undoubtedly in a strong position, despite the shorter chase for their visitors.

When Brentwood reached 270 after 38.3 overs, the clock ticked to 6.10pm, the cutoff time for the overs to be bowled.

Having lost a couple of balls through the innings, and having the left and right hand combinations in bat for the vast majority of the innings, Loughton were only slightly behind the clock.

If the innings had gone past the cutoff it was decided that the game would be considered over. With no option to declare due to the limited over competition, and

Are you looking forward to the 2012 Olympic Games?

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Gazette comment

like Beckham wouldn't mind strutting it like Jagger

"Wine, women and song" goes the famous cliché, others refer to "sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll", but one thing's for sure, there aren't too many regrets for a '70s rock star who's lived to tell the tale.

Brentwood's Brian "Robbo" Robertson, our Thin Lizzy legend, proves that even when you creep over the half-century mark, it's still pretty damn cool to be rock 'n' roll. Nickelback caught onto that fact with their incredibly cheesy but catchy hit Rockstar.

"The girls come easy and the drugs come cheap, we'll all stay skinny 'cause we just won't eat," they crooned unconvincedly.

Some old schoolers may question its credibility but it sold well and a new generation lived the dream. Rock of course won't be

AN Essex gymnast hoping to represent Britain at the 2012 Olympics swung by Doddinghurst Infant School this week (p21). We asked Year Two pupils at the school whether they were looking forward to the big event.



Lauren Thompson, 7, said: "I think it is going to be very exciting."

"I like gymnastics and so I want to watch them do some exciting things in that."



Jessica Folley, 7, said: "I am really excited because they are going to do lots of different sports."

"I think my favourite sport is



Rebecca Stanford, 7, said: "There are going to be lots of different sports and people that are really good at them, so it is going to be good to watch them."



George Taylor, 6, said: "I like to see other people do different sports. I play tennis but I am better when I go to the tennis club, because at home I always lose the ball in the back garden."



Daniel Redfern, 7, said: "I like football, and will watch that in the

Herongate e

HERONGATE I 270-9
SOUTH WEALD I . . . 260 all out
(Herongate won by 10 runs)

(T.Rippon Mid Essex League Division Two)

SOUTH Weald poor run of results continued